Executive Proclamation
State of South Dakota
Office of the Governor

Whereas, John Simpson is a life-long sportsman whose passion for South Dakota's natural resources and the outdoor opportunities they afford is paralleled by few; and,

Whereas, John began his working life in the malt beverage marketing industry where he was highly successful and widely known due to his extraordinary personal relations skills; and,

Whereas, John's love for the outdoors and his keen appreciation of the need to provide opportunities for the public to enjoy South Dakota's natural resources led him to a career with the South Dakota Department of Game Fish and Parks in 1987, working seasonally for 3 years on the Missouri River fisheries crew and for the habitat management program spending countless hours working with the spawning crew, interviewing fishermen, developing the Sportsman's Atlas and advocating the bountiful outdoor opportunities that are available in South Dakota; and,

Whereas, In 1990, John began what would become a 17-year career as the federal aid grants coordinator for the South Dakota Division of Parks and Recreation, which included the Land and Water Conservation Fund, Sportsfish Restoration Fund, Coast Guard Boating Safety, Bureau of Reclamation, FEMA, Clean Vessels Act Funds, and other programs as assigned; and,

Whereas, John gained his greatest satisfaction from the Land and Water Conservation Fund program where he had the opportunity to work directly with mayors, finance officers and citizens across South Dakota and the fruits of his labor included ball fields, playgrounds, picnic grounds, swimming pools and walking trails; and;

Whereas, In John's 17 years as the Division's federal aid grants coordinator, his diligent efforts facilitated more than $50 million in new development, improvements and resource protection in South Dakota communities and state park system, and John earned the respect of his colleagues across the nation for his knowledge of federal aid regulations and his willingness to share that knowledge with others; and,

Whereas, All would eagerly agree that John's greatest contribution is his love for South Dakota outdoors and his enthusiastic willingness to be an advocate for the countless opportunities that exist in our great state to enjoy these resources, and for all of this, John will be missed as he retires on March 23, 2007:

Now, Therefore, I, M. Michael Rounds, Governor of the state of South Dakota, do hereby proclaim March 23, 2007, as

JOHN SIMPSON DAY

in South Dakota, and I join his co-workers, family, and friends in congratulating him on this well-earned retirement and wishing him a long, healthy, peaceful and enjoyable retirement.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the Great Seal of the state of South Dakota, in Pierre, the Capital City, this Nineteenth Day of March in the Year of Our Lord, Two Thousand and Seven.

M. Michael Rounds, Governor

Attest:

Chris Nelson, Secretary of State